



SERVIÇO PÚBLICO FEDERAL
Ministério da Agricultura e do Abastecimento
Secretaria de Defesa Agropecuária
GABINETE DO SECRETARIO

Of. /GAB/SDA Nº 760/98

Brasília, 02 de dezembro de 1998

Prezado Senhor,

Dando seqüência aos entendimentos que temos mantido com o APHIS/USDA, anexamos as respostas das indagações contidas no questionário que nos foi remetido pelo setor de Defesa Sanitária Animal dos Estados Unidos, solicitando sejam as mesmas destinadas a área competente em Washington-DC.

Durante as reuniões que foram realizadas no dia 10/11 com a participação dos Senhores Michael Dunn, subsecretário do USDA e Dr. Angel Cielo, Diretor da Área Internacional do APHIS, um dos assuntos discutidos foi a fixação de cotas de exportação de carne fresca dos estados do Rio Grande do Sul e de Santa Catarina para o mercado norte americano, em igualdade de condições, aquelas já concedidas a Argentina, Uruguai e Paraguai.

Anexamos também para maiores informações sobre o controle das áreas livres, o informe que periodicamente somos obrigados a apresentar à OIE, reafirmando nossa condição de área livre de febre aftosa com vacinação dos estados do Rio Grande do Sul e Santa Catarina.

Esperamos ter atendido esta etapa de negociação e aguardamos as providências a serem adotadas pela APHIS.

Atenciosamente,


Enio Antônio Marques Pereira
Secretário de Defesa Agropecuária
SDA/MA

À Sua Senhoria o Senhor
FINN RUDD
MD. Adido Agrícola da Embaixada dos Estados Unidos
Brasília/DF

**Federative Republic of Brazil
Ministry of Agriculture and Supply
Secretariat of Agricultural Defense**

**REPORT OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
TO THE INTERNATIONAL EPIZOOTIES OFFICE
REAFIRMING THE CONDITION OF FREE ZONE OF FOOT AND MOUTH
DISEASE THAT UNDERTAKES VACCINATION, FOR THE STATES OF RIO
GRANDE DO SUL AND SANTA CATARINA**

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1 – INTRODUCTION

Brazil is a country of large territorial dimension, with 8,511,996 square kilometers of total area and the bigger commercial calf herd in the world, with 155 million animals, spread through more than 20 million ha. The herd of sheep is around 20,3 million and that of goat, about 12,1 million and swine reaches 35,8 million animals.

The quick reduction of Foot and Mouth Disease incidence in Brazil reflected changes in the economic field and the effort undertaken by the Government and the private sector to reach the goals established in the program for FMD elimination. Many years of work brought as a result the greatest opportunity the country had ever experienced to reach new markets, so far closed to its agricultural products.

First step to the opening of new markets was made during the 66th General Session of the International Committee of the International Epizootics Office when, through Resolution X, a Free Zone of Foot and Mouth Disease was approved, where vaccination is undertaken. The free zone encompasses the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina.

2.- DESCRIPTION OF THE FREE ZONE

In the Southern Region of Brazil, the Free Zone is formed by the territories of both states Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. It covers an area of 378,169 km², with a cattle population of 14,525,363 animals, divided into 542,528 herds. The area has an important swine population – 6.3 million animals – as well as that of sheep, which overalls 10.6 million individuals, concentrated in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

The Free Zone borders are in the North, the state of Paraná, west, the Argentinean Republic, South, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and East, the Atlantic Ocean.

Uruguay is a country free of Foot and Mouth Disease, without vaccination since 1995. Argentina is free with vaccination since 1997 and the state of Paraná, since May 1995, has no occurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease in its whole territory.

Chart 01 – LOCATION OF THE FREE ZONE OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION

3 – HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

In the Free Zone we find 486 veterinarians, 1.355 technicians and 622 administrative officers, working for 501 local units of the State Veterinarian Services in field activities, counting on 521 vehicles for transportation

All local units have telephones and several have fax and computers. Communication with any part of the country is quick and easy.

Working within the Free Zone are also 39 veterinarians from the Federal Veterinarian Service, 9 of them in the state of Santa Catarina and 30 in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. They are essentially located in international border areas (ports, airports and border units) and regional units of animal health surveillance.

Table 01 – State Veterinarian Services: Human Resources, Number of Local Units and Vehicles – 1998

State	Human Resources			Local Units	Vehicles
	Veterinary	Technical Assistant	Adm. Assistant		
Rio Grande do Sul	286	1,120	370	241	285
Santa Catarina	200	235	292	260	236
Total - Zone Free	486	1,355	662	501	521

There are 2,503 officers working in health surveillance in the whole Free Zone, besides 524,528 rural producers involved in the program for elimination of Foot and Mouth Disease, who are extremely active and responsible for early notification of any suspicion of vesicular disease.

All personnel offered at municipal and community levels are not included in the above-mentioned numbers.

Table 02 – Indicators of veterinarian care in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina – 1998

States	Area (Km ²) Local Unit	Calf/ Veterinarian	Calf herd/ veterinarian	Area (Km ²) Veterinarian
Rio Grande do Sul	1,173.3	42,212	1,211	986.6
Santa Catarina	369.1	12,263	849	479.2

Average	754.8	29,887	1,079	778.1
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4 – Health surveillance and veterinarian care system

In 1998, veterinarian services within the Free Zone performed 271,118 interviews with producers and made 271,449 visits to rural properties, establishing an additional mechanism of health surveillance.

4.1 - PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED VESICULAR DISEASE

NOTIFICATION

Foot and Mouth Disease and Vesicular Stomatitis are diseases of obligatory notification. Following federal regulation, any suspicion of vesicular disease within the Free Zone is considered as a sanitary emergency and the notification of any occurrence, once received by the local unit, is immediately transmitted to headquarters at state level and to the Department of Animal Defense in Brasilia.

NOTIFICATION CHECKING

Every presumed detection of vesicular disease within the Free Zone is checked at the same day it is notified, to allow immediate identification, to prevent its spread and to extinguish eventual focuses of Foot and Mouth Disease, through the following procedures:

- Establishment interdiction;
- Identification of animals in the establishment;
- Sample collection (epithelium and sera) for diagnosis;
- Start of epidemiological survey, to detect the origins of the infection and to take all necessary measures to prevent its spread.

If the occurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease is confirmed, an emergency situation is declared and the veterinarian authority will undertake the following procedures regarding the site of detection:

- Sacrificing of sick and susceptible animals and those which have been in contact with them;
- Disinfecting;
- Forbidding of any agricultural events (exhibitions, fairs, auctions, selling, etc.);
- Restricting the circulation of susceptible animals

Surrounding the site of detection, an area is delimited within which the following procedures are undertaken:

- Vaccination;
- Forbidding of circulation of susceptible animals;
- Forbidding of any agricultural events (exhibitions, fairs, auctions, selling, etc.);

LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS

Brazil has 3 laboratories for diagnosis of vesicular diseases and Foot and Mouth Disease, part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply's network, under the Department of Animal Defense. All laboratories are located outside the Free Zone and the Blocking Zone.

The Pan-American Foot and Mouth Disease Center participates as a reference laboratory.

Presumably infected samples (epithelium and sera) collected within the Free Zone are sent to the Regional Laboratory of Animal Support, in Recife, State of Pernambuco for diagnosis of FMD and diferentials.

4.2 – INVESTIGATION OF VESICULAR DISEASES

Every suggestive occurrence of vesicular disease has been notified by producers and quickly investigated by the official service.

In 1997 seven notifications were made. One of them was due to trauma, two were caused by infectious pododermatitis, two by poisoning, one by Eucaliptus Disease and another, confirmed by laboratory diagnosis as contagious ectima .

The following cases were reported suspect of vesicular disease in the FMD free zone in 1998. Cases were timely examined within the first 12 hours after they were reported. Laboratory exams showed they were not FMD cases.

MUNICIPALITY	AFFECTED SPECIE	DIAGNOSIS
Guaramirim	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Videira	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Pinheiro Preto	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Ouro Verde	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Salto Veloso	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Vargeão	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Bom Jesus	Calf herd	Vesicular stomatitis
Quilombo	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Rancho Queimado	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Xanxerê	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Xanxerê	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
São José	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Ipuaçu	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Abelardo Luz	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Caçador	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis

Passos Maia	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Abelardo Luz	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
São Joaquim	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Otacilio Costa	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Ouro Verde	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Coronel Freitas	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Ouro Verde	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Lages	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Galvão	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Vargeão	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Faxinal dos Guedes	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Águas Mornas	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Faxinal dos Guedes	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea
Faxinal dos Guedes	Calf herd	Cattle Infect. Rinotraqueitis
Abelardo Luz	Calf herd	Cattle Viral Diarrhea

4.3. SURVEILLANCE AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE LEVEL

There are 37 slaughterhouses for calf herd, 17 swine and 03 for herd of sheep in the FMD free zone, all of them inspected by the Federal Inspection Service, and where animals are submitted to veterinary inspection, before and after they are slaughtered. This is to seek clinical signs and slaughter findings compatible to the occurrence of disease. Norms into effect recommend that tongues and inter-digital spaces are inspected in all calf herd.

4.4. CONTROL AND ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS

No animal is allowed to be transported in the disease free zone unless transport is supported by a health certificate issued by official veterinarians.

Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul States, together with the Economy State and Public Security Secretariats, are working in order to keep permanent assessment of animals being transported in the disease free zone, mainly with mobile assessment units.

Table 03 - Number of animals inspected by mobile barriers in the State of Rio Grande do Sul - 1994-98

YEAR	Nº OF BARRIERS	Nº OF ANIMALS INSPECTED		
		CATTLE	SHEEP	HOG
1994	179	283,144	26,306	1,955
1995	192	389,508	47,366	892
1996	1787	376,587	93,539	118,936
1997	2,484	451,319	121,481	161,821
1998 *	1,422	140,201	37,182	74,402

* up to October.

Up to October, 1998, 148 calf herd and 145,072.69 Kg of meat with bone were sacrificed, all apprehended by the inspection service without regular health documents.

4.5. CONTROL AND ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL ENTRY IN THE DISEASE FREE ZONE

Entry of animals coming from other Federative Units in the disease free zone is allowed only for animals with a Guide for Animal Transport, regularly issued by an official veterinarian or accredited in the state of origin.

A previous authorization is required for animals susceptible to FMD, case by case, according to the norms into force. Animals are put into quarantine in the origin and destination, under inspection of official veterinarians. Laboratory tests are undertaken, both in the origin and destination.

14 inspection units are permanently operating in the limits of Disease Free Zones with Blocking Zone (Santa Catarina/ Parana border)

Table 04 - Inspection units in the border of Santa Catarina and Parana States.

Municipalities of Santa Catarina	Highways
1. Garuva ***	BR 101
2. São Bento do Sul (Fragosos)	BR280
3. Mafra ***	BR116
4. Três Barras	SC303
5. Porto União	BR280
6. Água Doce ***	BR153
7. Passos Maia	SC466
8. São Domingos	BR280
9. Galvão	BR280
10. Abelardo Luz ***	SC467
11. São Lourenço do Oeste	SC468
12. Campo Erê	SC473
13. Palma Sola	SC471
14. Dionísio Cerqueira ***	BR163

*** Authorized municipalities for animal entry.

CHART 02 - INSPECTION UNITS IN THE BORDER OF SANTA CATARINA AND PARANA

- Blocking zone
- Free zone
- Inspection units
- Inspection units authorized for animal entry
- Inspection units

4.5.2. FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Animals and animal derived products from foreign countries may enter the disease free zone in the above-mentioned units. All units are provided with permanent veterinary inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply:

1. Border Unit of Chui - Rio Grande do Sul (Uruguai)
2. Border Unit of Jaguarão - Rio Grande do Sul (Uruguai)
3. Border Unit of Aceguá - Rio Grande do Sul (Uruguai)
4. Border Unit of Santana do Livramento - Rio Grande do Sul (Uruguai)
5. Border Unit of Uruguaiana - Rio Grande do Sul (Argentina)
6. Border Unit of Dionísio Cerqueira - Santa Catarina (Argentina)
7. Rio Grande Port - Rio Grande do Sul
8. Porto Alegre Port - Rio Grande do Sul
9. Salgado Filho International Airport, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul
10. Hercílio Luz International Airport, Florianopolis, Santa Catarina
11. Itajai Port, Santa Catarina
12. São Francisco do Sul Port, Santa Catarina

4.6. CATTLE HERD VACCINATION

4.6.1.-RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Table 05 - Number of existing and vaccinated calf herd in the State of Rio Grande do Sul - 1994-98

STAGE/ YEAR	EXISTING CATTLE	VACCINATED CATTLE	VACCINATION (%)
FEBRUARY/94	12,342,765	11,185,883	90.6
SEPTEMBER/94	1,125,660	994,207	88.3
FEBRUARY/95	11,995,302	9,965,431	83.1
SEPTEMBER/95	1,093,302	892,100	81.5
FEBRUARY/96	12,399,518	10,507,279	84.7
SEPTEMBER/96	1,130,836	1,021,417	90.3
FEBRUARY/97	12,153,435	10,418,992	85.7
SEPTEMBER/97	1,025,431	953,536	92.9
FEBRUARY/98	12,072,783	10,411,980	86.2

Note: In the vaccination stage of September only young animals are vaccinated.

4.6.2. SANTA CATARINA

Vaccination of calf/ bubalis herds is an official initiative in the State of Santa Catarina, and it is undertaken by community vaccinators trained by the official service. Vaccination is carried out in a farm by farm basis.

Table 06 - Number of existing and vaccinated calf herd in the State of Santa Catarina - 1994-98

STAGE/ YEAR	EXISTING CATTLE	VACCINATED CATTLE	VACINATION (%)
APRIL/94	2,559,190	2,313,541	90.40
OCTOBER/94 *	890,121	631,423	70.93
APRIL/95	2,497,225	2,467,773	98.82
OCTOBER/95 *	881,037	629,741	71.50
APRIL/96	2,556,074	2,527,663	98.89
OCTOBER/96	2,442,463	2,404,146	98.40
APRIL/97	2,526,800	2,452,580	97.00
OCTOBER/97	881,300	782,515	88.7
APRIL/98	2,452,580	2,428,509	95%

(*) In the vaccination stage of 1994 and 1995, only animals under 24 (twenty-four) months weren vaccinated.

5. SEROLOGICAL MONITORING

According to the Zoosanitary Rules, Chapter 2.1.1., OIE recognized during its 66th General Session, the first foot-and-mouth disease free zone, where vaccination is carried out in Brazilian territory. Free zone encompasses the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina.

Non-traditional mechanisms should be added to surveillance and prevention systems of the free zone, as a continuous alternative aimed at providing information on viral activity. In this sense, timely detection increases effectiveness of emergency measures. Assuring the absence of viral activity is a relevant aspect for the process of decision making for seeking better sanitary situation, when vaccination is interrupted.

Taking into account that the risk of foot-and-mouth disease transmission is associated to the regional and sub-regional levels of occurrence, as well as to animal transportation arising from trade relations, serological monitoring is to be made in sentinel properties.

For the purpose of this chapter, sentinel property is a place to which the sanitary status of an area or sub-area can be reflected as a consequence of animal coming from such area. In this sense, it is important to note that these properties are important for determining disease risk around its geographical and commercial surroundings. A group of these properties is defined as a "cluster" of properties.

Identification of these properties is based on the definition of their geographical prevalence and intensity of their trade relations. Viral activity monitoring in these properties or "clusters" can be focused in two different ways. First, considers previous notification to the veterinary service by owners about animal entry. A team from the veterinary service will be present at the moment of animal entry in the property, to identify and collect animal samples and record information that enables them to begin an epidemiological investigation process in case of a positive result in diagnostic tests.

The second one considers sample studies about bovine population (short-term studies, to be defined in accordance with the frequency of animal entry- preferably about animals under 2 years) and other relevant species.

A "cluster" of properties is considered dynamic in its nature, since sentinel properties are usually included or taken out, or properties are incorporated in view of any pertinent situation for the purpose of seeking viral activity.

In 1998, xxx sentinel properties were selected to compound the "cluster" of properties, from which 3,477 bovine sera was collected from calf herd under 2 years, 1,135 from sheep herd sera, 70 from bubalis sera. For each property, the number of animals to be examined was determined, in order to obtain a 95% probability to detect viral activity and a prevalence rate of 1%, by using a serial diagnosis test, VIA-IDGA as "screening" and EITB for false-positive.

Among tested animals, xxxxx were positive as for VIA-IDGA. Nevertheless, all of them, without exception were negative for EITB. These results prove the absence of viral activity in this zone, reinforcing the status of foot-and mouth disease free zone